

Vegetables

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Contracted Processing Production Up 12 Percent from Last Year

The 2004 contracted processing vegetable production for the four major processing crops (snap beans, sweet corn, green peas, and tomatoes) is forecast at 15.8 million tons, up 12 percent from last year's comparable States and 3 percent more than comparable States two years ago. Production of processing tomatoes, at 11.6 million tons, is 20 percent above comparable States in 2003 and increased 4 percent from comparable States in 2002. Snap bean production, at 736,430 tons, is up 5 percent from last year's comparable States production. Sweet corn production, at 3.03 million tons, is down 7 percent from last year, and green pea production, at 388,890 tons, is 17 percent below 2003. Contracted acreage for harvest of the four major processing vegetable crops, at 1.10 million acres, is 3 percent below comparable States in 2003 and 1 percent less than comparable States for 2002.

Asparagus Production Down 9 Percent

Production of the 2004 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.85 million cwt, down 9 percent from 2003 and 1 percent below 2002. Acres harvested, at 53,500, are down 20 percent from last year and 19 percent below two years earlier. Fresh production of 1.29 million cwt, decreased 7 percent from 2003 but is 2 percent above 2002. Processed production, at 28,200 tons, is down 13 percent from last year and 6 percent below two years ago.

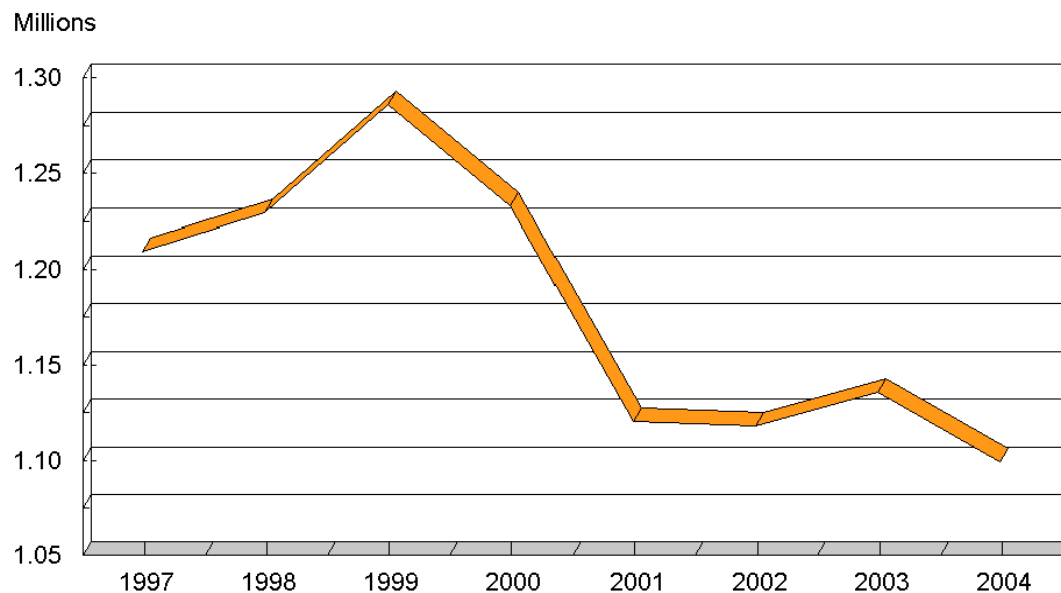
Spring Onion Production Up 20 Percent

The end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 11.4 million cwt, is up 20 percent from last year. Acres harvested, at 35,300, are up 13 percent from a year ago, while yield, at 323 cwt per acre, is up 19 cwt per acre from 2003. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 225 million dollars, 21 percent less than last year.

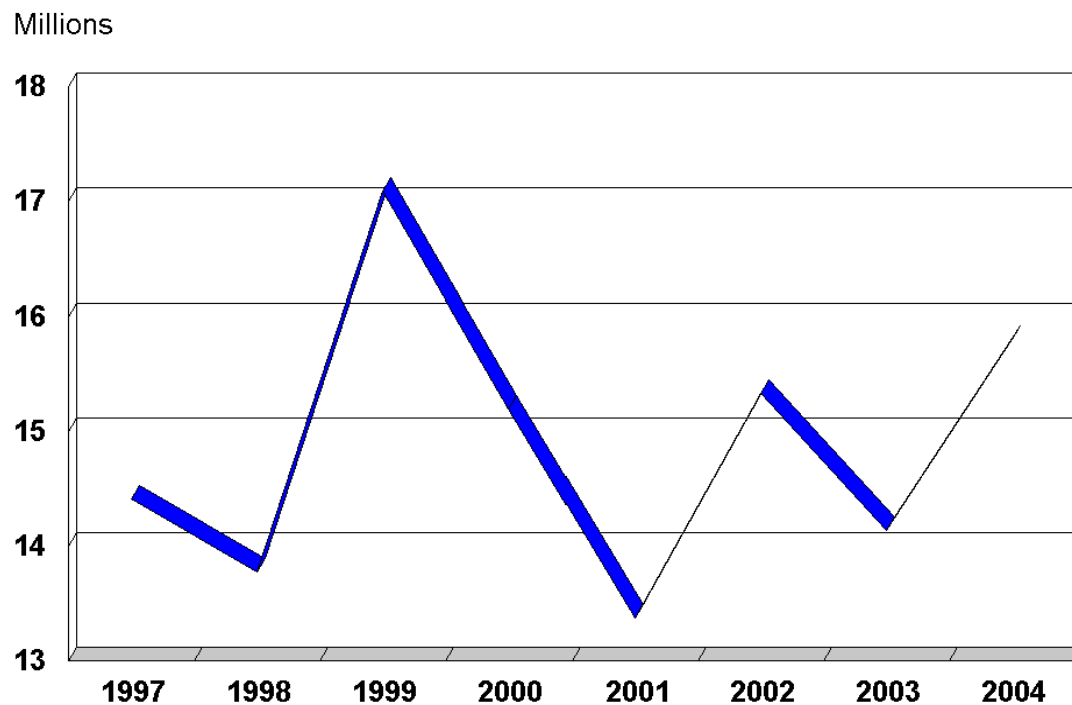
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4 Major Processed Vegetables: Contracted Area Harvested (Snap Beans, Sweet Corn, Green Peas, and Tomatoes) United States, 1997-2004 (Acres)



4 Major Processed Vegetables: Contracted Production (Snap Beans, Sweet Corn, Green Peas, and Tomatoes) United States, 1997-2004 (Tons)



**Processing Vegetables: Area Harvested and Production
by Crop, United States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted 2004
(Domestic Units)**

Crop	Area Harvested			
	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
		Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
All Processing				
Snap Beans	201,800	189,600	188,300	174,500
Sweet Corn	417,100	426,600	424,300	410,900
Green Peas ²	212,200	232,100	232,100	214,700
Tomatoes	312,200	293,920	290,820	299,100
Total	1,143,300	1,142,220	1,135,520	1,099,200
Cucumbers for Pickles ³	117,800	118,800	82,900	
Total 5 Vegetables	1,261,100	1,261,020	1,218,420	
	Production			
	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
		Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
All Processing				
Snap Beans	793,710	727,640	723,160	736,430
Sweet Corn	3,067,690	3,266,050	3,249,260	3,032,270
Green Peas ²	349,860	467,670	467,670	388,890
Tomatoes	11,670,820	9,819,710	9,705,670	11,647,930
Total	15,882,080	14,281,070	14,145,760	15,805,520
Cucumbers for Pickles ³	619,310	648,430	428,840	
Total 5 Vegetables	16,501,390	14,929,500	14,574,600	

¹ Includes acreage from major brokers.

² Carried forward from earlier forecast.

³ Cucumbers for pickles will be published in the Vegetable 2004 Summary, released January 2005.

**Processing Vegetables: Area Harvested and Production
by Crop, United States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted 2004
(Metric Units)**

Crop	Area Harvested			
	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
		Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>	<i>Hectares</i>
All Processing				
Snap Beans	81,670	76,730	76,200	70,620
Sweet Corn	168,800	172,640	171,710	166,290
Green Peas ²	85,880	93,930	93,930	86,890
Tomatoes	126,340	118,950	117,690	121,040
Total ³	462,680	462,250	459,530	444,840
Cucumbers for Pickles ⁴	47,670	48,080	33,550	
Total 5 Vegetables ³	510,350	510,320	493,080	
	Production			
	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
		Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>	<i>Metric Tons</i>
All Processing				
Snap Beans	720,040	660,100	656,040	668,070
Sweet Corn	2,782,950	2,962,900	2,947,660	2,750,810
Green Peas ²	317,390	424,260	424,260	352,790
Tomatoes	10,587,530	8,908,240	8,804,790	10,566,770
Total ³	14,407,910	12,955,500	12,832,750	14,338,450
Cucumbers for Pickles ⁴	561,830	588,240	389,040	
Total 5 Vegetables ³	14,969,730	13,543,740	13,221,790	

¹ Includes acreage from major brokers.

² Carried forward from earlier forecast.

³ Totals may not add due to rounding.

⁴ Cucumbers for pickles will be published in the Vegetable 2004 Summary, released January 2005.

**Snap Beans for Processing: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by State and United States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted 2004**

State	Area Harvested						
	2002 Total		2003				2004 Contract ¹
			Total		Contract ¹		
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>
DE			2,900		2,900		
IL	20,600		16,600		16,200		11,700
IN	6,000		6,200		6,200		5,700
MD			2,700		2,700		2,100
MI	16,000		14,300		14,300		16,000
NY	21,300		21,900		21,100		21,000
OR	18,700		16,000		16,000		17,600
PA	7,500		7,800		7,800		8,600
VA			1,000		900		
WI	72,200		66,200		66,200		66,300
Oth Sts ^{2 3}	39,500		34,000		34,000		25,500
US ³	201,800		189,600		188,300		174,500
	Yield per Acre			Production			
	2002 Total	2003 Total	2004 Contract ¹	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
					Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
	DE		3.19			9,250	9,250
IL	3.02	3.38	3.70	62,300	56,040	54,680	43,290
IN	2.98	2.80	3.05	17,860	17,340	17,340	17,390
MD		2.35	4.10		6,350	6,350	8,610
MI	3.75	3.15	3.30	60,030	45,010	45,010	52,800
NY	2.99	3.53	3.30	63,590	77,380	74,570	69,300
OR	6.22	6.26	6.65	116,250	100,200	100,200	117,040
PA	2.71	2.97	4.45	20,340	23,190	23,190	38,270
VA		2.85			2,850	2,540	
WI	4.39	4.09	4.35	317,070	270,840	270,840	288,410
Oth Sts ^{2 3}	3.45	3.51	3.97	136,270	119,190	119,190	101,320
US ³	3.93	3.84	4.22	793,710	727,640	723,160	736,430

¹ Includes acreage from major brokers.

² 2002 - AR, CA, DE, FL, GA, MD, MN, MO, NJ, NC, TX, and VA.

2003 - AR, CA, FL, GA, MN, MO, NJ, NC, and TX.

2004 - CA, DE, FL, GA, MN, NJ, NC, TX, and VA.

³ Seasonal forecasts for AR and MO are not available. Estimates to be published in the Vegetable 2004 Summary, released January 2005.

**Sweet Corn for Processing: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by State and United States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted 2004**

State	Area Harvested						
	2002 Total		2003				2004 Contract ¹
			Total		Contract ¹		
	<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>		<i>Acres</i>
DE			9,400		9,400		
IL	13,800						
MD			5,500		5,500		6,500
MN	136,900		139,400		139,400		136,900
NY	16,800		14,400		14,400		18,500
OR	33,000		30,100		30,100		29,700
PA	1,400		770		770		1,900
WA	95,300		98,300		98,300		96,700
WI	84,200		92,100		89,800		79,300
Oth Sts ²	35,700		36,630		36,630		41,400
US	417,100		426,600		424,300		410,900
	Yield per Acre			Production			
	2002 Total	2003 Total	2004 Contract ¹	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
					Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
	DE		6.00			56,400	56,400
IL	5.80			80,040			
MD		5.64	7.00		31,000	31,000	45,500
MN	6.46	6.73	6.40	884,630	938,800	938,800	876,160
NY	5.30	7.55	6.70	89,040	108,780	108,780	123,950
OR	7.99	9.03	8.85	263,580	271,680	271,680	262,850
PA	4.76	5.16	6.00	6,660	3,970	3,970	11,400
WA	9.44	9.16	9.20	899,200	900,540	900,540	889,640
WI	7.08	7.40	6.55	596,050	681,420	664,630	519,420
Oth Sts ²	6.96	7.47	7.33	248,490	273,460	273,460	303,350
US	7.35	7.66	7.38	3,067,690	3,266,050	3,249,260	3,032,270

¹ Includes acreage from major brokers.

² 2002 - DE, ID, IA, MD, NJ, and TN.

2003 - ID, IL, IA, NJ, and TN.

2004 - DE, ID, IL, IA, NJ, TN, and VA.

**Tomatoes for Processing: Area Harvested, Yield, and Production
by State and United States, 2002-2003 and Forecasted 2004**

State	Area Harvested						
	2002 Total	2003				2004 Contract ¹	
		Total		Contract ¹			
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>		
CA	291,000	274,000	271,000	281,000			
IN	8,100	8,200	8,200	8,300			
MI	3,600	3,300	3,300	3,300			
NJ				800			
OH	6,300	5,700	5,600	5,700			
Oth Sts ²	3,200	2,720	2,720				
US ³	312,200	293,920	290,820	299,100			
	Yield per Acre			Production			
	2002 Total	2003 Total	2004 Contract ¹	2002 Total	2003		2004 Contract ¹
					Total	Contract ¹	
	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
CA	37.99	33.77	39.50	11,056,000	9,252,000	9,141,000	11,100,000
IN	31.66	24.67	31.90	256,450	202,290	202,290	264,770
MI	35.00	38.00	33.00	126,000	125,400	125,400	108,900
NJ			28.30				22,640
OH	23.75	30.40	26.60	149,630	173,280	170,240	151,620
Oth Sts ²	25.86	24.54		82,740	66,740	66,740	
US ³	37.38	33.41	38.94	11,670,820	9,819,710	9,705,670	11,647,930

¹ Includes acreage from major brokers.

² 2002 - MD, NJ, and PA.

2003 - MD, NJ, and PA.

³ Seasonal forecasts for MD are not available. Estimates to be published in the Vegetable 2004 Summary, released January 2005. PA estimates discontinued in 2004.

Snap Beans: Contracted production of snap beans is forecast at 736,430 tons, up 5 percent from comparable States last year. Based on comparable States between 2003 and 2004, contracted harvested acreage decreased 3 percent, while yield per acre rose 0.33 tons per acre. Wisconsin's crop was late developing due to heavy rainfall and cooler temperatures throughout the season, however, good yields and quality are reported. Growing conditions for Delaware and Maryland have been better this season compared to last year when wet conditions had a negative impact on production. Rainy weather this year, which is causing problems for some vegetables, has had minimal adverse affect on snap beans grown for processors. Illinois processors are expecting above average yields. In Indiana, favorable yields are expected. Timely rains have helped the crop grow and develop in most areas of the State, however, final planting was slowed by frequent and sometimes heavy rainfall which caused ponding and flooding and damaged the crop in a few low lying areas. Early harvest in Michigan began in late July then picked up during August. Adequate soil moisture and cool temperatures enhanced crop development. In New York, above average rainfall over the summer has left the snap bean crop in fair to good condition with lower yields than last year. Oregon's crop started early this season. Yields are expected to be very good.

Sweet Corn: Contracted sweet corn production is forecast at 3.03 million tons, down 7 percent from last year. A decrease of 3 percent in contracted harvested acreage is accompanied by a yield decrease of 0.28 tons per acre when comparing the 2004 season to 2003. Harvest of the Minnesota crop is one to two weeks behind schedule. Cool weather and excessive moisture have slowed crop development. The harvest delays bring additional concern for possible early frost damage. As of late August, 29 percent of the sweet corn crop had been harvested. The Washington harvest is in full swing. The crop is mostly average with slightly higher yields than last year. Delaware's harvest is ahead of schedule and about three quarters of the crop had been harvested by mid-August. Conditions in Illinois this season have been average. The crop is looking good at this point with 65 percent already harvested. Maryland sweet corn was about 97 percent harvested as of mid-August. Yields have improved from last year despite wet weather conditions, which have caused problems for other vegetables in the State. New York reports good quality ears coming from this year's crop. Frequent rains during the summer have benefitted early plantings but may slow maturity of late planted corn. Oregon's commercial growers reported rapid growth and large ears the beginning of August. A good crop is expected though mention was made of stalk rot on the eastern side of the State and hot weather on the western side which hurt pollination there. Wisconsin's crop development was delayed by below average temperatures and excessive rainfall. Yields are also lower as a result. Some acreage had to be replanted early in the season and progress has been slow.

Tomatoes: Contracted tomato production is forecast at 11.6 million tons, 20 percent greater than last year for comparable States. Based on comparable States between 2003 and 2004, a 3 percent increase in contracted acreage was accompanied by a yield increase of 5.54 tons per acre. In California, exceptionally high yields have been reported in most areas. Because of the heavier than expected production, some processors are planning to purchase significant quantities in addition to the tonnage already contracted and a portion of the crop may also go unused, according to industry sources. Growth and development of the Indiana crop have been slowed by cooler than normal temperatures during the first three weeks of August. Warm and sunny conditions are needed to improve the crop. Michigan yields are lower this season due to unseasonably cool temperatures across the State. In addition, wet conditions have led to disease problems but cool temperatures helped reduce fungal pressure. Ohio growers had harvested 10 percent of the tomato crop as of mid-August. Temperatures have been cool and rainfall above average.

**Asparagus for Fresh Market and Processing: Area Planted and Harvested,
Yield, Production, and Value by State and United States, 2002-2004**

State	Area Planted			Area Harvested		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
CA	36,500	36,000	28,000	34,000	36,000	25,000
MI	16,000	16,000	15,500	15,000	15,000	14,500
WA	18,000	17,000	15,000	17,000	16,000	14,000
US	70,500	69,000	58,500	66,000	67,000	53,500
	Yield per Acre			Production		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>
CA	30	31	39	1,020	1,116	975
MI	15	21	20	219	317	290
WA	37	38	42	629	608	588
US	28	30	35	1,868	2,041	1,853
	Value					
	Per Cwt			Total		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
CA	114.00	122.00	139.00	116,280	136,152	135,525
MI	53.40	60.80	64.50	11,703	19,278	18,708
WA	71.40	71.20	81.00	44,893	43,277	47,616
US	92.50	97.40	109.00	172,876	198,707	201,849

**Asparagus for Fresh Market and Processing: Production and Value
by Utilization, State, and United States, 2002-2004**

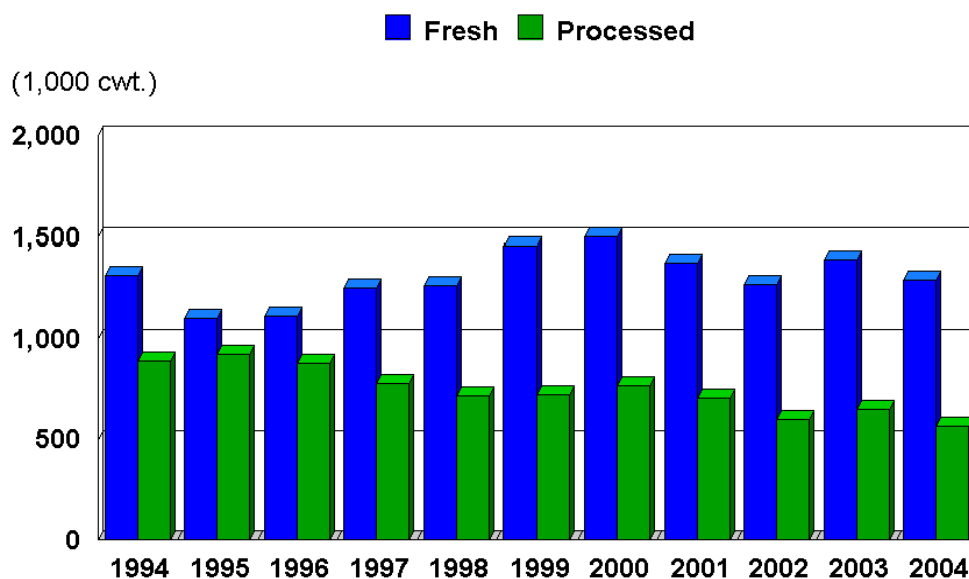
Utilization and State	Production					
	2002		2003		2004	
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	
Fresh Market						
CA ¹	1,020		1,116		975	
MI	21		43		26	
WA	226		233		288	
US	1,267		1,392		1,289	
	<i>Tons</i>		<i>Tons</i>		<i>Tons</i>	
Processing						
MI	9,900		13,700		13,200	
WA	20,150		18,750		15,000	
US	30,050		32,450		28,200	
Canning	26,150		28,650		21,600	
Freezing	3,900		3,800		6,600	
	Value					
	Per Unit			Total		
	2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Dollars per Cwt</i>	<i>Dollars per Cwt</i>	<i>Dollars per Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
Fresh Market						
CA ¹	114.00	122.00	139.00	116,280	136,152	135,525
MI	67.00	66.00	90.00	1,407	2,838	2,340
WA	97.00	94.00	107.00	21,922	21,902	30,816
US	110.00	116.00	131.00	139,609	160,892	168,681
	<i>Dollars per Ton</i>	<i>Dollars per Ton</i>	<i>Dollars per Ton</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
Processing						
MI	1,040.00	1,200.00	1,240.00	10,296	16,440	16,368
WA	1,140.00	1,140.00	1,120.00	22,971	21,375	16,800
US	1,110.00	1,170.00	1,180.00	33,267	37,815	33,168
Canning	1,120.00	1,160.00	1,160.00	29,211	33,255	24,984
Freezing	1,040.00	1,200.00	1,240.00	4,056	4,560	8,184

¹ Includes a small amount of processing asparagus.

Asparagus: Production of the 2004 asparagus crop is forecast at 1.85 million cwt, down 9 percent from 2003 and 1 percent below 2002. Harvested acreage, at 53,500, is down 20 percent from last year and 19 percent below two years ago. Fresh production of 1.29 million cwt, decreased 7 percent from last year but increased 2 percent from two years earlier. Processed production, at 28,200 tons, is down 13 percent from 2003 and 6 percent below 2002. Asparagus for canning, at 21,600 tons, is down 25 percent from last year. Frozen asparagus production of 6,600 tons, is up 74 percent from 2003. Total value of the crop, at 202 million dollars, is 2 percent greater than 2003 and 17 percent more than 2002. Harvest in the Imperial Valley of California began early as warm temperatures accelerated development. Harvest peaked during the last week of March into the first week of April. Price is higher due to reduced supplies from out of State competitors. Northwest supplies were reduced by damage from a large windstorm in May. Mexican supplies were limited as a result of cooler temperatures during the growing season and harvest ending early. Michigan's 2004 season has experienced a variety of less than optimal conditions. The crop progressed rapidly during the spring but a hard frost occurred the first week of May. Warmer temperatures followed during mid-May to help development, but excessive rainfall and widely varied temperatures later in the month hindered production as well as harvest activity. Yields were variable due to inclement conditions, but growers report good regrowth and minimal disease pressure. Harvest concluded the third week in June. Washington's asparagus acreage continues to decline. Harvest began early this year with some beetle pressure reported. For some growers, the season was shortened by high labor costs and low fresh market demand.

Asparagus: Production

United States, 1994-2004 (1,000 cwt.)



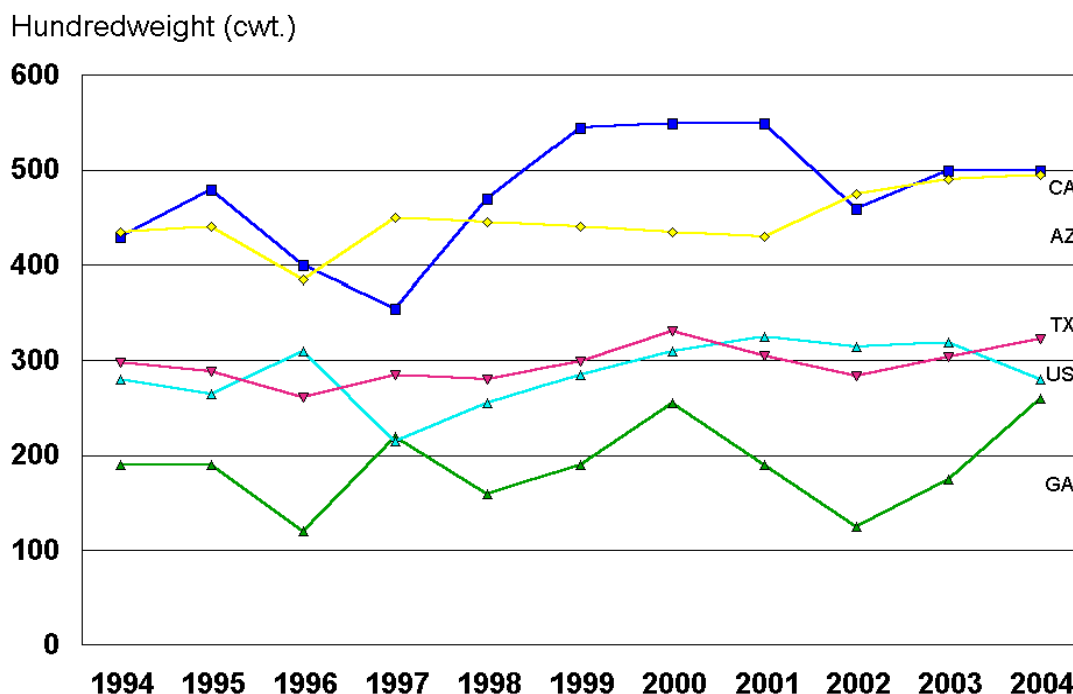
**Onions: Area Planted and Harvested, Yield, Production,
and Value, Selected States, 2003-2004**

Crop and State	Area				Yield per Acre	
	Planted		Harvested		2003	2004
	2003	2004	2003	2004		
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Cwt</i>	<i>Cwt</i>
Spring ¹						
AZ	1,500	1,600	1,500	1,600	500	500
CA	6,400	6,900	6,200	6,700	490	495
GA	14,000	16,500	12,500	14,500	175	260
TX	12,800	14,500	11,000	12,500	320	280
Total	34,700	39,500	31,200	35,300	304	323
	Production		Value			
	2003	2004	Per Cwt		Total	
			2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
Spring ¹						
AZ	750	800	9.89	8.80	7,418	7,040
CA	3,038	3,317	22.90	15.10	69,570	50,087
GA	2,188	3,770	34.30	23.50	75,048	88,595
TX	3,520	3,500	38.10	22.60	134,112	79,100
Total	9,496	11,387	30.10	19.70	286,148	224,822

¹ Primarily fresh.

Spring Onions: Yield

Major States and United States, 1994-2004 (Cwt.)



Spring Onions: The end-of-season spring onion production estimate, at 11.4 million cwt, is up 20 percent from last year. Acres harvested, at 35,300, are up 13 percent from a year ago, while yield, at 323 cwt per acre, is up 19 cwt per acre. The value of the spring crop is estimated at 225 million dollars, 21 percent less than last year. Arizona growers report a good quality crop as harvest nears completion. The California spring onions were planted last fall without any major problems. However, cold late winter weather, followed by hot temperatures in early spring, resulted in quality problems in some areas which put downward pressure on prices. Overall, good yields were reported. In Georgia, the spring onion crop was reported in fair to good condition throughout the season which ended the last week of May. Temperatures have been average and disease minimal. The Texas spring onion season is complete. Good size and quality were reported.

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For **assistance** with general agricultural statistics or further information about NASS or its products or services, contact the **Agricultural Statistics Hotline** at **800-727-9540**, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: **nass@nass.usda.gov**.

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USDA Data Users' Meeting

October 18, 2004

Hampton Inn & Suites

Chicago, Illinois

(312) 832-0330

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for data users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and seek comments and input from data users. Other USDA agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board. The Foreign Trade Division from the Census Bureau will also be included in the meeting.

For registration details or additional information for the Data Users' Meeting, see the NASS homepage at www.usda.gov/nass/ or contact Karlyn McCutcheon (NASS) at (202) 690-8141 or at karlyn_mccutcheon@nass.usda.gov.

This Data Users' Meeting precedes an Industry Outlook meeting that will be held at the same location on October 19, 2004. The Outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss the outlook situation. For more information about the outlook meeting and to register contact Jim Robb (Livestock and Marketing Information Center) at (720) 544-2941 or at robb@lmic.info.